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(viii) Forests.

747. The total area of State Forests and Plantations, Reserved Lands Village and Minor Forests at the close of the year was 4,703·88 square miles made up of the following:—

	Square Miles.
State Forests and Plantations ...	3,889·49
Reserves under Section 35 (iii) ...	83·73
Reserves under Section 4 ...	127·84
Minor Forests ...	407·57
Other lands under departmental management	105·31
Village Forests	88·62
Revenue Plantations	1·32
Total ...	4,703·88

748. On account of the clamour by the landless ryots and particularly from the Adikarnatakas, an area of 1,567 acres 7 guntas out of the State Forests of Bangalore District was ordered to be disafforested. In addition, 50 acres out of Hirebetta Reserve in Madhugiri Range and 17 acres 27 guntas of Pandithanahalli Plantation in Tumkur Range were also ordered to be disafforested. An area of 100 acres out of Minchikal State Forest in Tumkur Range was disafforested.

749. Seven miles and four furlongs of Hutridurga Forest in Kunigal Range were cut during the year.

Demarcation.

750. Survey work was carried out over an area of 48·50 square miles involving the survey of State Forests, Minor Forests, Plantations, Gomal lands, disafforested and cultivated areas, boundary survey in State Forests, and rectification of errors between State Forests and adjoining lands. The large areas of encroachments under non-alienation scheme in Bangalore District, survey of areas released for cultivation in Aspatre Kaval, Mysore District (2,967 acres), for co-operative farming and 8,400 acres released for Flax cultivation in favour of Jayasree Textiles, Ltd., in Hunsur Range were surveyed and demarcated.

Natura Regeneration.

751. The exploitation of the forests was strictly according to the sanctioned working plans and schemes.

752. The natural regeneration in the evergreen zone of dhuma, balagi, mango and halmaddi was good. In the deciduous forests, there was a prolific regeneration of Jambe. Sandal natural regeneration was good in all the areas.

753. Artificial regeneration was resorted to in deciduous and dry zones where natural regeneration was generally poor.

Artificial Regeneration.

754. As usual, nurseries were maintained in all the Ranges not only to raise planting materials required for the departmental afforestation works but also for the supply of plants to other departments, local bodies, and the public for plantings on occasions like Vanamahotsava His Highness's Birthday, etc. In such of the divisions where it was felt that the existing nurseries were not adequate to meet the local demand during the planting season the existing nurseries were extended or fresh ones opened where there were none.

Nurseries.

755. In connection with Vanamahotsava celebrations, nearly 4 lakhs of seedlings and plants were supplied to the public and other departments from the several divisions.

Exploitation of Timber.

756. Five lakhs sixty-six thousand three hundred and thirty cubic feet of timber logs, 3,613 poles, 4,954 balagi poles and 23,731 teak ballies were collected through the Government Agency. A fresh contract was entered into with the Kolar Gold Fields for the supply of several varieties of timber. The supply of treated sleepers to the Railways and balagi poles to the Electrical Department was made during the year.

757. The demands of the public for timber were catered by means of periodical auction sales as well as retail sales at schedule or concessional rates. The department continued to meet the requirements of the sister departments and foster several major industries, Government and private, by supplying raw materials.

758. Government were pleased to grant timber at concessional rates to several institutions for the construction of buildings intended for the benefit of the public. The concessions generally granted were the waiving of 5 per cent surcharge and 33⅓ per cent selection charges. In some cases, even the retail rates were cut by suitable percentages from 10 to 20 per cent.

Sandalwood.

759. Three thousand and ninety-two tons of rough sandal wood were collected and carted to the several koties. One thousand six hundred and twenty-seven tons of good wood were prepared. Eight hundred and ninety-three tons were supplied to the Sandal Oil Factories. The Coorg

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auction sales having secured post bids, were cancelled by that Government. Tirupattur and Satyamangalam sales reflected a fall in prices got for sandalwood. The rate of commission to the agencies for the sale of Mysore Sandalwood was reduced from 10 per cent to 5 per cent during the year. The import by *bona fide* manufacturers of agarabathi of foreign chips and spent dust in reasonable quantities were allowed during the year.

760. Timber and other forest produce were removed under rights and privileges sanctioned at the time of settlement under M.R.P. Rules and rules for the grant of building materials in case of accidental fires and for the construction of dwelling houses by the deserving poor.

Protection from cattle.

761. Free grazing of cattle was permitted in all the State Forests, plantations, and areas where regeneration operations were carried out were closed for grazing to prevent damage by trampling. Rights to cut and remove grass from these reserved and protected areas were auctioned.

762. Due to scarcity of fodder in Madadakere and Hosadurga parts on account of failure of rains, cutting and removal of karada grass free of cost by the villagers in these parts from Lakkihalli State Forest was permitted. The revenue realised during the year by disposal of right of collection and removal of grass from protected and reserved areas by the sale of right of collection of daily grazing fees at frontier toll gates and by issue of prepaid licenses to foreign and nomadic cattle was Rs. 28,122.

763. The forest department continued to be the supplier of the very important raw material, *viz.*, fuel and charcoal. As in previous years, several fuel coupes were reserved for civilian consumption in Bangalore.

Forest Research Laboratory.

764. The three different sections in the Laboratory continued to function as before, but the Forest Chemist was designated as the Chief Research Officer in order that he may arrange for the periodical meetings of the several sectional officers and co-ordinate the work in the three sections of the Laboratory.

Elephants.

765. The usual staff for scaring away wild elephants from cultivated fields was maintained in Mysore, Hassan and Bangalore Districts.

766. A miniature khedda on pit system was arranged for capturing wild tuskers, as the present number of tuskers

in the department was insufficient to carry out the operations. Two young tuskers were captured in Biligirirangan Temple Forests.

767. There were 53 elephants and 2 calves at the end of the year. Without prejudice to the departmental operations, the elephants were hired out to the Modern Theatres, Ltd., Salem, to shoot one of their pictures "The jungle" and to the Hollywood Television Co., headed by Mr. Frank Ferin & Co., for shooting their picture "Ganga Ram".

Shikars.

768. Shikar camps were arranged for His Highness the Maharaja, the Chief Commandant, Indian Army, His Excellency the Governor of Madras and His Highness the Maharaja of Bundi. Tiger shikars were arranged for His Excellency the Governor of Madras and His Highness the Maharaja.

Kumbi Settlement.

769. There were 291 families with a population of 1,677. The settlers rendered useful service to the department in clearing lines, raising plantations and conducting cultural operations.

770. Other wild tribes, sholigars, kurbars and banjars continued to live in the forests.

Lease of Forest lands.

771. The lease for cultivation of cardamom in all the blocks (140 acres 11 guntas) in Bisle Forest, Hassan District, and in the Mudigere Range of Chickmagalur District (182 acres) was continued during the year.

Forest offences.

772. The number of cases pending at the beginning of the year was 271. One thousand nine hundred and fourteen cases were added on during the year and with the disposal of 1,894 cases, 291 cases were pending at the close of the year. The total amount of compensation realised was Rs. 74,202.

773. With a view to preserve the fauna and flora of the land and to prevent the extinction of the species which are depleting, the Government of India have constituted a Central Board of Wild Life, with His Highness the Rajpramukh of Mysore as the Chairman and the Chief Conservator of Forests, as one of the members. To co-ordinate with the Central Committee, a sub-committee was proposed to be formed in the State, with the Chief Minister as Chairman. One of the recommendations of the advisory committee is to form a National Park, to protect, conserve and control wild life, and action was being